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## POLYPORUS OFFICINALIS, FRIES.

BY W. W. CALKINS, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

This fine and rare species is found occasionally growing in dead places on living *Pinus Strobus* in the forests of Michigan. It is not common. I know of a specimen that has been in an office here for ten years, and during this time has been an object of curiosity as well as of usefulness. This specimen is about one foot long and eight inches in diameter, perfectly round, and uniform in size from base to top, or nearly so. The growth was made in concentric layers, each a little over one half an inch in thickness and slightly overlapping the one below. The color throughout is white; pores visible; taste very bitter and similar to that of quinine in place of which, indeed, myself and many others have used it. Up to this time, nearly one half of it, except the shell, has disappeared. Its virtue as a tonic is undoubted. According to Fries, as I learn from Ellis, it seems that the old Greek botanist, Dioscorides, was acquainted with and mentions this valuable species in a work he published, *MATERIA MEDICA*, during Nero's reign. Therefore its medical virtues have been long esteemed. During our late war, it was used to some extent when quinine could not be obtained. From numerous inquiries, I am satisfied that it is rarely found in the pine forests of Michigan, and it is certain that no specimens are ever thrown away. The one here is carefully guarded.

## NEW LITERATURE.

BY W. A. KELLERMAN.

"PRIMO CENSIMENTO DEI FUNGHI DELLA LIGURIA." Per F. Baglietto. *Nuovo Giornale Botanico Italiano*. 12 Luglio, 1886.

"KRYPTOGAMEN FLORA VON DEUTSCHLAND, OESTERREICH UND DER SCHWEIZ, PILZE." 24 Lieferung. *Pyrenomycetes* (*Sphaeriaceæ*). Von Dr. G. Winter.

This Lieferung includes pp. 657-736. The descriptions of twenty-seven more species of *Diaporthe* are given, also two of *Mamiana* and 102 species of *Valsa*. Dr. Winter has taken this last genus in the wide sense of Nitschke for three reasons, namely: because the relationship of all the forms here united is very close, because of the structure of the stroma and its significance we know scarcely anything, and because if *Valsa* is divided into many genera according to the differences in the stroma, so also must the genera *Diaporthe* and *Anthostoma* likewise be divided, which is scarcely a practicable undertaking. He enumerates the species under the following subgenera: *Eutypa*, *Endoxyla*, *Cryptovalsa*, *Cryptosphaeria*, *Cryptosphaerella*, *Eutypella*, *Euvalsa* and *Leucostoma*.

"ASYCOMYCETES OBSERVES AUX ENVIRONS DE LIEGE." Par V. Mouton. *Bulletin de la Societe Royale de Botanique de Belgique*. Tome vingt-cinquieme, Fascicule premier, pp. 137-162, 1886.

"CONTRIBUTION A LA FLORE MYCOLOGIQUE DE BELGIQUE." Par Mmes. E. Bommer et M. Rousseau, pp. 163-185. 1. c.